

My name is Jennifer Wendry and I am the Head Coach of the Women's Rowing team at the University of Connecticut. I am writing to support that the Four O'Clock Flower become the Connecticut Children's State Flower.

I will never forget hearing about the awful tragedy that happened to the Petit Family. I have three sons and as a parent when you hear about horrific things such as these it is impossible to not imagine it happening to your own family.

Through the Petit Family Foundation, Dr. Petit has done an amazing job turning this tragedy into something positive for so many young people. Years ago, my team took part in picking seeds from Michaela's garden at the Oxen Hill Farm in Suffield, Connecticut. If I am remembering correctly, the seeds were going to be used to sell in packets as a fundraiser to support the Petit Family Foundation. That activity was special to my team as they felt they were making a connection and doing something positive from the tragedy.

Honoring Michaela by naming the flower the Four O'Clock Flower is something that will mean a lot to any person in the state who was touched by this tragedy. For all that have benefitted from the positive things that have come out of the Petit Family Foundation, it will be a forever reminder of Dr Petit's message to "Be the Change."